HISTORY SHEET OF HARNAM SINGH.

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Harnam Singh, born in 1886, is the son of the late Aya Singh, District Judge, Resident of Hall Bazar, Amritsar.

He entered the Khalsa College, Amritsar in June 1902, and left after taking the B. A. degree in 1905. He was then given an allowance of Rs. 250 a month by the Raja of Nabha to enable him to proceed to England where he joined the Agricultural College, Cirencester, as well as Gray's Inn, in October 1906. After studying there for less than two years he was expelled as he and another Indian student refused, at the request of the Principal, to desist from wearing a badge consisting of an enamelled *Bande Mataram* flag on a white ground with the motto "In memory of the Martyrs of 1857." Harnam Singh was present at the Mutiny celebration on the 10th May 1908 at India House, and it was after this meeting that he commenced to wear the badge. When questioned about it by W. Coldstream, Esq., I.C.S. (retired) on June 15th, 1908, Harnam Singh said that he got the medal from V. D. Savarkar in May, in vacation time, when he was staying at 3, Glazebury Road, London. He took it because it looked very pretty. As to the "martyrs of 1857" Savarkar told him they were people who had fought and died; he did not say where in India, or whether they were Europeans or Indians. Asked whether he thought they were Natives, Harnam Singh replied that he did not think at all.

At the same interview he mentioned that he was staying at "India House" the previous week.

On account of his misbehaviour at Cirencester the Nabha State scholarship was withdrawn, and it was afterwards reported that he was being supplied with funds by S. R. Rana, a well-known associate of Shyamji Krishnavarma, of Paris.

The London correspondent of the *Kal* of Poona stated (*Kal*, 31st July 1908) that Harnam Singh and Rafik Muhammad Khan left the Cirencester College and refused to rejoin because the Principal called Nana Sahib and Laxmibai murderers. He added that a dinner was given in honour of the two students for their resolute conduct. The first toast was "Independent India". The second toast "Indian Heroes" was proposed by Professor Gokul Chand of the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College (Lahore). Mrs. Dhandevi (Punjab), the President, spoke in

fitting terms of the guests of the evening and announced that the title of *yar-i-hind* (friend of India) was given to them by the Indians in London. She added that it was the right of the people to present titles and that she would rather have the mothers childless than see their sons dishonoured by foreign titles. From another source it has been ascertained that this dinner was given at the India House.

On the 10th August 1908 it was reported that Harnam Singh had returned to London from Felixstowe and was residing at 8, Merton Avenue, Cheswick.

On the 6th October 1908 he was present at a large gathering of Indians in Cadby Hall, Kensington, where Har Dyal and Lajpat Rai made speeches in favour of *swaraj*. He was also present at the Anti-Partition meeting and *rakhi-tying* ceremony, held in Caxton Hall on October 16th.

After his expulsion from Cirencester College, Harnam Singh joined the Birkbeck College, London, but he was not there long before the vacation began, after which he decided to go to Cambridge. He was admitted to Fitzwilliam Hall, Cambridge, in October 1908, and left in December. His conduct was good and he passed Part I of the examination for the Diploma of Agriculture. The College authorities believed that he left owing to the death of his father, but this was certainly incorrect as his father had died long before.

It seems much more likely that he left because he was again drawn into the political arena, for he occupied a prominent place on the platform at the Guru Gobind Singh celebration held at Caxton Hall on December 29th. This was a public meeting called for political purposes by the Hindu extremists in London and Lajpatrai, B. C. Pal and V. D. Savarkar delivered speeches which were calculated to incite disloyalty amongst the Sikhs. Photographs of the Indians present on the platform were reproduced in the *Daily Mirror* and other London papers and an expurgated account of the speeches delivered was printed in the *Punjabee* of the 23rd January 1909. Savarkar was already an acquaintance of Harnam Singh's and as he had a good deal to do with getting up the meeting it is likely that he was the person who for the second time led Harnam Singh away from his studies.

Harnam Singh seems to have left London shortly after this as his name is not mentioned as taking part in any further meet-

ings. He joined the Armstrong College, Newcastle, in January 1909, and according to his own account was there for only two weeks. At the end of February 1909 he was said to be residing in Paris and assisting Shyamji Krishnavarma, and it was stated that he was believed to be the translator into Gurmukhi of the seditious leaflet in that language which was distributed in India shortly after and in connection with the Govind Singh meeting.

He returned to London on March 30th, 1909, and went to stay with friends at Chiswick, and he was said to be preparing for the final of the examination in Agriculture to be held at Cambridge in June.

According to a report from London he was present at the usual Sunday meeting at the "India House" on April 11th at which V. V. S. Aiyar read a part of Savarkar's book on the mutiny, and he made a speech which was not reported but was apparently in keeping with the rest of the proceedings.

On May 3rd, Savarkar returned to London from Oxford and was reported to have boasted that he had collected £20 for his book on the mutiny and in this connection Harnam Singh was said to have promised to visit the Cambridge Colleges with the same object.

About this time Harnam Singh, who had been studying Law as well as Agriculture, desired to be called to the Bar. The Benchers of Gray's Inn refused to call him and Savarkar, owing to their connection with the seditious movement, and with reference to this Savarkar was reported to have remarked at the "India House" meeting on May 9th that although they did not wish to adopt the policy of bomb-throwing the authorities were forcing them to do so. Harnam Singh stated on the same occasion that he did not care as Mrs. Cama had promised to adopt him and leave him all her wealth. The Benchers, however, subsequently admitted Harnam Singh to the Bar.

At the mutiny celebration held on May 10th, 1909, Harnam Singh was in the chair and V. D. Savarkar was reported to have made a violent speech on "The History of the Indian Mutiny" in which he said that the Sikhs and other native soldiery were ready to rise and shake off the oppressive and ruinous yoke of British rule.

Harnam Singh left England at the end of June and arrived in Colombo on July 19th whence he proceeded to Amritsar where he arrived on July 26th.